

Marriage License

All persons wishing to be married in the State of New Hampshire must complete a Marriage License Application with any City or Town Clerk regardless of their place of residence. This includes out-of-state residents. Once the marriage license is issued, the couple is free to marry within any city or town in the State of New Hampshire.

A marriage certificate is a copy of the record certified by the city or town clerk or by the Registrar of the Vital Records and Health Statistics and serves as evidence of the fact of marriage.

Application Procedure

Both individuals must appear at the same time at the Town Clerks Office. However, if either party (or both) is a member of the armed forces, he or she shall forward an affidavit of marriage intentions, prepared by the armed forces legal representative, to the Town Clerk, if he or she cannot appear in person.

When completing your marriage license worksheet please be sure to fill in every box. We need full middle names and last names at birth even if the names are the same. There are two pages to this worksheet. The second page is to be filled in as much as possible and signed. "Person A" on the worksheet is to be completed by the groom and "Person B" is to be completed by the bride. In the case of a same-sex couple, "Person A" information is to be completed alphabetically by last name (example: John Doe completes "Person A" information; John Smith completes "Person B" information).

Individuals may apply for a marriage license between 8:15 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. We kindly ask that you arrive at least 45 minutes prior to closing in order to complete all required documentation.

- Identification Requirements: (no photo or electronic copies)
- Proof of age (example - driver's license, passport, certified birth certificate)
- Photo identification (example - driver's license or passport)
- Certified copy of a death certificate of a former spouse, if either applicant is widowed
- Certified copy of a final divorce decree, if either applicant is divorced
- Certified copy of a civil annulment decree, if the applicant's previous marriage was annulled (This is a court document).

Documents that are not in English must be accompanied by a translation that has been signed by the translator. A notary must witness the translator's signature.

Age

A male or female who has reached the age of 18 can marry without parental permission. A female between the age of 13 and 17 years and a male between the age of 14 and 17 years can be married only with the permission of their parent (guardian) and a waiver. A female below the age of 13 and a male below the age of 14 are not allowed to marry under any condition.

Relationship

Marriage is not permitted in New Hampshire between people who are related by blood as first cousins or in any more direct lineage. Marriage may be performed by:

- A Justice of the Peace commissioned in New Hampshire
- A minister of the gospel in New Hampshire who has been ordained to the usage of his denomination, resides in New Hampshire and is in regular standing with the denomination

Marriage License

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- A minister within his parish, residing outside New Hampshire, but having a pastoral charge wholly or partly in New Hampshire
- Jewish Rabbis who are citizens of the United States and reside in this state
- Quakers
- A deacon in the Roman Catholic Church ordained according to the usage of his denomination
- Judges of the United States, a US magistrate judge residing in this state pursuant to federal law, a clergyman who are not ordained, and non-resident Justices of the Peace, ministers and Jewish Rabbis, after being licensed by the Secretary of State.

Marriage Ceremonies

We do not perform marriage ceremonies. No particular ceremony is required for a marriage in New Hampshire. A Justice of the Peace is usually available Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost to certify the marriage license with no ceremony or vows is \$40. We can provide you with a marriage license, a Justice of the Peace and a marriage certificate before you leave the Town Office building. The cost is \$45 for the license, \$40 for the Justice of the Peace with no ceremony or vows, and \$15 for one copy of your marriage certificate. It is recommended that you call ahead (603) 778-0591 X 403 to insure the Justice of Peace will be available.

Waiting Period

There is no waiting period in the State of New Hampshire.

Validity of License

The license is valid for use for 90 days from the date of the application.

Fee

The fee to apply for a marriage license is \$45.00. Payment can be made with cash, check, or a money order. Please make payable to the Exeter Town Clerk.

Penalty

Any person shall be guilty of a Class B Felony if he/she willfully and knowingly makes any false statements on an application for a certified copy of a vital record ([RSA 126.24](#)).

Certified Marriage Certificate

After you are married, please wait 7-10 days before applying for a copy of your marriage certificate. You may either come into our office or print the Request for Marriage Certificate and send \$15.00 (money order or check) to:

Exeter Town Clerk
10 Front Street
Exeter, NH 03833

How do I change my name after marriage?

Name changes are done by the couple and require presenting a certified copy of the marriage certificate to any agency where the name change would be recorded such as the Social Security Division and the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Web Links

[RSA 126:24](#)

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